

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A braking apparatus for a fishing reel comprising:
2 a braking assembly;
3 a contacting structure surrounding said braking assembly; and
4 a plurality of braking elements slidably located within said braking assembly, said braking
5 elements slidably movable from a retracted position to an extended position, wherein
6 said braking elements make braking contact with said contacting structure in said
7 extended position; and
8 a selector adapted to restrict selected braking elements from contacting said contacting
9 structure.
- 1 2. The braking apparatus of claim 1 wherein:
2 said braking elements are extended to contact said contacting structure by centrifugal force.
- 1 3. The braking apparatus of claim 1 wherein:
2 each of said braking elements have a post extending from a surface of said braking elements,
3 said post for limiting travel of said braking elements from said retracted position to said extended
4 position.
- 1 4. The braking apparatus of claim 1 wherein:
2 said contacting structure is axially stationary with respect to said braking assembly.

1 5. The braking apparatus of claim 3 wherein:
2 said braking assembly is comprised of said selector and a brake assembly base;
3 said selector has a rearward face, said rearward face defining a plurality of indentations;
4 said brake assembly base has a forward face, said forward face defining a plurality of radial
5 slots;
6 said rearward face of said selector mates against said forward face of said brake assembly
7 base;
8 said braking elements are slidably located within said radial slots of said brake assembly
9 base; and
10 said post of said braking elements protrude into said indentations of said forward face.

1 6. The braking apparatus of claim 5 wherein:
2 said indentations have an inner wall and an outer wall for restraining radial movement of said
3 post of said braking elements, thereby establishing a location of said retracted position and said
4 extended position of said braking elements.

1 7. The braking apparatus of claim 6 wherein:
2 said outer wall of said indentations have a small radius segment and a large radius segment.

1 8. The braking apparatus of claim 7 wherein:

2 said indentations and each post of said braking elements may be moved relative to one
3 another such that each post may be selectively exposed to said small radius segment and said large
4 radius segment for selectively restraining said braking elements.

1 9. The braking apparatus of claim 1 wherein:
2 said braking assembly is comprised of said selector and a brake assembly base; and
3 said selector is rotationally affixed to said brake assembly base.

1 10. The braking apparatus according to claim 1 wherein:
2 said braking assembly may be configured to selectively restrain a desired number of braking
3 elements to prevent said desired number of braking elements from contacting said contacting
4 structure.

1 11. A method for braking a reel on a fishing reel comprising the steps of:
2 setting a selector to restrict a desired number braking elements from radial movement within
3 a braking assembly;
4 spinning said braking assembly;
5 providing a contacting structure surrounding said braking assembly;
6 extending a selected number of braking elements from said braking assembly with
7 centrifugal force to make braking contact with said contacting structure.

1 12. The method of claim 11 wherein:

limiting travel of a selected one of said braking elements by selectively engaging a portion of said braking element.

13. The method according to claim 11 wherein:

said step of limiting travel of a selected one of said braking elements comprises locating a brake element post within an indentation formed in said braking assembly.

14. The method according to claim 11 wherein:

said step of setting a selector moves indentations relative to posts extending from said braking elements such that said posts are selectively located on a radial path that intersects one of a small radius segment and a large radius segment that comprise walls of said indentations.

15. The method according to claim 14 wherein:

said step of setting a selector comprises locating said small radius segment and said large radius segment by imparting relative rotational motion between said posts and said indentations for selectively restraining said braking elements.

16. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of:

maintaining said contacting structure in an axially stationary relationship with respect to said braking assembly during use.

17. The method according to claim 11 wherein:

- 2 said step of setting a selector comprises rotating said selector with respect to a brake
- 3 assembly base.